CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A hERG channel-expressing cell population comprising cells capable of expressing a channel of which the hERG current as determined by patch clamping with a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system is 0.6 nA or more, wherein the proportion~~ratio~~ of said cells is 40% or more relative to the total number of hERG gene-transferred cells within said population.~~–~~

2. The cell population according to claim 1, wherein the hERG gene has been transferred with a virus vector.

3. The cell population according to claim 2, wherein the virus vector is a retrovirus vector or a lentivirus vector.

4. The cell population according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the average value of the hERG current in the total cell population~~cells~~ is 0.3 nA or more.

5. A cell capable of expressing a hERG channel of which the hERG current as determined by patch clamping with a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system is 1.0 nA or more.~~–~~

6. The cell according to claim 5, wherein the hERG gene has been transferred with a virus vector.

7. The cell according to claim 6, wherein the virus vector is a retrovirus vector or a lentivirus vector.

8. A method of preparing the cell population according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4 or the cell according to any one of claims 5 to 7~~claim 1, the method comprising~~which comprises~~ expressing hERG channels ~~using~~ via a virus vector.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the virus vector is a retrovirus vector or a lentivirus vector.

10. (Canceled)~~The method according to claim 8, wherein the virus vector is a retrovirus vector.~~

11. The method according to claim 8~~any one of claims 8 to 10~~, the method further comprising the~~which comprises a~~ step of concentrating the virus vector by ultracentrifugation.

12. A method of measuring hERG current inhibitory activity, the method comprising~~which comprises~~ using the cell population according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4 or the cell according to any one of claims 5 to 7~~claim 1.~~—~~

13. The method according to claim 12, the method further comprising~~which comprises~~ using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

14. A method of measuring hERG current inhibitory activity, the method comprising~~which comprises~~ using a cell population or a cell prepared by the method according to ~~any one of claims 8 9, or to 11~~claim 8.

15. The method according to claim 14, the method further comprising~~which comprises~~ using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

16. A method of screening a compound~~for compounds,~~ or a salt~~salts~~ thereof for its hERG current altering effect,~~ that alter or not alter hERG currents,~~ the method comprising~~which comprises~~ using the cell population according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4 or the cell according to any one of claims 5 to 7~~claim 1.~~—~~

17. The method according to claim 16, the method further comprising~~which comprises~~ using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

18. A method of screening a compound~~for compounds,~~ or a salt~~salts~~ thereof for its hERG current altering effect,~~ that alter or not alter hERG currents,~~ the method comprising~~which comprises~~ using a cell population or a cell prepared by the method according to ~~any one of claims 8 9, or to 11~~claim 8.

19. The method according to claim 18, the method further comprising~~which comprises~~ using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.–

20. A method of measuring hERG current inhibitory activity, the method comprising using the cell population according to claim 5.

21. A method of screening a compound or a salt thereof for its hERG current altering effect, the method comprising using the cell population according to claim 5.